



Attorney Docket No. 09792909-5126

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

H. Watanabe et al.

Application No. 09/944,192

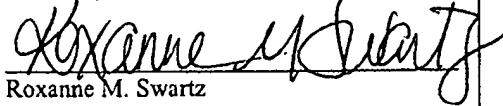
Filed: August 30, 2001

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) Group Art Unit: 2134

) Examiner: John E. Elmore

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**RESPONSE TO DECEMBER 20, 2005 FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

Dear Sir:

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Final Office Action mailed December 20, 2005. Applicants respectfully request amendment of the patent application, and reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims.